

CALEYI



NORTHERN BEACHES GROUP
austplants.com.au/northern-beaches

June 2023

Australian Plants Society Northern Beaches
northernbeaches@austplants.com.au

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|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
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APS Northern Beaches Group acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land on which our activities take place. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging, and recognise the continuing connection to lands, waters and communities.

CALENDAR

APS Northern Beaches meeting Thursday June 1, 2023 at Stony Range Botanic Garden, Dee Why.

7.15 pm. Lesser plant family. Rhamnaceae - Conny

7.30 pm presentation. Michael Gillings, Professor of Molecular Evolution, Macquarie University. **"Fungal biodiversity & its interaction with plants"**.

Supper. **Russell & Georgine**

Wednesday June 21 APS Northern Beaches visit Harry Loots' prize winning native garden in Neutral Bay. Registration essential with Anne Gray 0466 309 181 or annepgray@optushome.com.au. See more details p. 5.

Many thanks to Harry Loots and Penny Hunstead for their inspiring contributions to this edition of Caley.

If you have story to tell or have a strange botanical occurrence in your garden please share them with us. Send stories, photos (as attachments please) etc for Caley to **Jane March** march@ozemail.com.au



Ancient *Athrotaxis cupressoides* (Pencil Pine) in front of Barn Bluff. pic: HL.

HARRY LOOTS. 'PLANTS HIDDEN IN THE CLOUDS'.

At the APS Northern Beaches meeting in May Harry Loots spoke evocatively about the alpine plants of the Central Highlands of Tasmania. He took many photos on his most recent walks along the Overland Track between Cradle Mountain and Lake St Clair in 2022 & 2023.



Utricularia dichotoma (Bladderwort): Pic HL.



Lindy on the duck boards over the moor walking towards Kia Ora Hut with Cathedral Mountain behind her. Pic: HL

We felt chilled to the bone as he described the harsh conditions that he and Lindy Monson experienced in this fascinating place.

Here is a selection of images he captured during their adventure. I understand that Harry is writing a comprehensive account of their travails for a future edition of the APS NSW magazine.



Pencil Pine in Lake Will. pic: HL



Scapisheocio pectinatus (alpine groundsel). Pic:HL

Strawberry bracket fungus, Aurantiporus pulcherrimus Pic: HL



Schistostega pennata - a luminous moss Pic: HL



Gentianella diemensis (Gentian) Pic: HL



Richea scoparia. Pic: HL

RANUNCULACEAE

Compiled by Jane March from entries in Robinson, Plantnet etc.

Family of herbs and climbers.

The family is very primitive, related to Menispermaceae. Ranunculaceae, buttercup or crowfoot family; Latin *rānunculus* "little frog", from *rāna* "frog") is a family of over 2,000 known species of flowering plants in 43 genera, distributed worldwide.

The largest genera are *Ranunculus* (600 species), *Delphinium* (365), *Thalictrum* (330), *Clematis* (325), and *Aconitum* (300).

This family is most common in cool, moist habitats in temperate latitudes or at high elevations in warmer areas. In Australia, members of the family are most common in the highlands of the south-eastern mainland and Tasmania, in alpine and subalpine herbfields, marshes, moist forests and in grasslands.

LOCAL SPECIES

Ranunculus

Agenus of marsh plants c. 400 species worldwide. C 35 in Australia.

The Buttercup family is like a window back in time. None of today's species were around 100 million years ago, but the Buttercups and other primitive groups like the Magnolias have retained the most ancestral characteristics over time. The Buttercups are considered very "simple" because the floral parts-the petals, sepals, stamens and pistils-are all of an indefinite number and separate from one another. Also, the stamens and pistils are spirally inserted in a cone-like receptacle, although it is often very small to see. More advanced plant families have reduced, more specific numbers of floral parts, and the parts are often fused together.

All flowers yellow.

Ranunculus inundatus – acquatic

Ranunculus lappaceus
var. *lappaceus*

An erect plant 10-60cm tall. Found in damp or marshy places on enriched soil. Common in area. Pic. Murray Fagg.



Ranunculus plebius

Erect herb. 50-100cm. Found in damp or marshy places on enriched soil. Uncommon in area. Pic. Richard Hartland.



Ranunculus sessiflorus var. *Sessiflorus*.
Small sprawling. Found in moist places. Rare in the area.

* specimens not native

Ranunculus muricatus *

Erect herb in marshy ground. Introduced from Mediterranean. Pic. Weeds of Melbourne.



Ranunculus repens *

Erect herb with creeping roots. Introduced from Europe. Most common in area.



Ranunculatus sceleratus *

Poison buttercup.

Erect herb in marshy ground. Introduced from Europe. Uncommon in area.

Clematis

Clematis aristata.

Vigorous climber. Masses of white flowers in Spring. Common in sandstone gullies, and in forests on Cumberland Plain. Pic. JM



Clematis glycinoides

Similar to *C. aristata* but leaves lack teeth. Pic. Kevin Sparrow



WA VISIT TO ARNHEM LAND

Penny Hunstead

Arnhem Land is a vast wilderness of 97,000 square kilometres, the same size as Iceland. For some 50,000 years it has been home to the indigenous landowners of this continent, i.e., the different clan groups of the Yolngu people. It became an Aboriginal Reserve in 1931 and from then on, a permit was required to enter it.



Arnhem Land riverine landscape from the air.

I was one of a group, organized by Marnie Ogg and her husband, the well-known astronomer, Dr Fred Watson. Their tours are privately advertised and people come on the tours, again and again and form firm friendships. Marnie's veterinary surgeon father had made a number of work trips into Arnhem Land and recommended the Davidson's Safari Lodge for his daughter's 2023 Top End, dry season tour. The lodge, which had previously been a cattle station, was located in 700 square kilometres of land that is leased from the traditional owners. Close by is the magnificent Mount Borradaile, with its labyrinth of caves, the sites of



previous human habitation and the natural canvas for Aboriginal artists. This area, in the far north west of Arnhem Land, comprises ancient rugged sandstone ranges with many sculptured and teetering rock profiles, fringed by idyllic billabongs and vast wetlands.

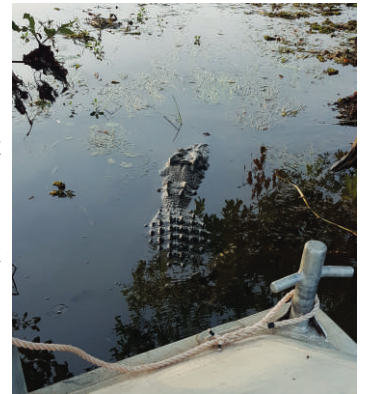
Accommodation was in charming little cabins, which had wire screens instead of glass windows. Inside, it felt more outdoorsy than being in a tent!



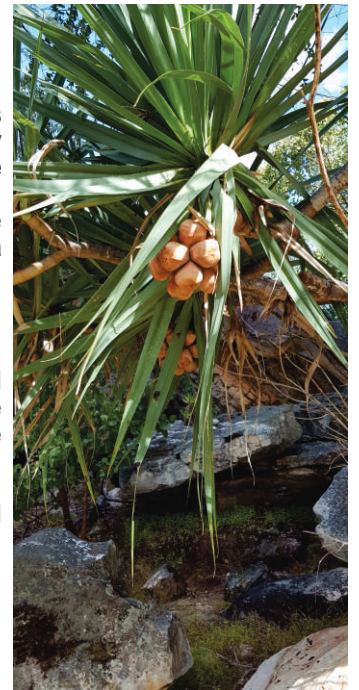
Over six days, our group was transported in three Jeep-like 4-wheel drive vehicles, through the woodlands to see rivers, waterfalls and waterholes, to trek over the ancient stone country rock platforms to see



stunning aboriginal rock art, up to 50,000 years old, in the intensely-weathered sandstone outcrops and caves. On our boat trips on the billabongs and rivers we saw 49 species of birds, including the blue-winged kingfisher and kookaburra, whistling kite, white-breasted sea eagle, wedgetail sea eagle, jabiru, magpie goose, plumed whistling duck, bar-shouldered tern, rufus nankeen night heron, rainbow bee eater, apostlebird and jacana.



We also encountered many salt water crocodiles, one of which surfaced and leaped, right beside our little boat! We saw Agile Wallabies, black-footed rock wallabies, barramundi and perenties. Other animals, heard but not seen, included dingoes and green tree frogs.



The tropical savannah woodlands were full of flowering plants, many of the same genera as found in the Sydney sandstone regions. Various eucalypts dominated the landscapes. Other genera included, *Acacia*, *Boronia*, *Calytrix*, *Goodenia*, *Grevillea*, *Hibbertia*, *Hibiscus*, *Jacksonia*, *Livistona*, *Micraira*, *Pityrodia*, *Phyllanthus*, *Sorghum*, *Stylidium* and *Tephrosia*. Trees dominant in the rivers and billabongs were *Melaleuca spp*, *Livistona*, *Pandanus* and *Allosyncarpia*. Plants of the wetlands included *Nymphoides sp.*, *Oryza sp.*, *Nymphaea sp.*, *Echinochloa sp.*, *Utricularia sp.* and *Vallisneria spp.*

As always, there was an astronomical component to the trip, a partial lunar eclipse, seen at 3 am on 6th May by some hardy members of our group, who braved an onslaught of mosquitoes, more persistent than the daytime ones. The experience of the magnificent landscapes and their treasures was enhanced by the observations of my fellow travellers. I could return to Arnhem Land in a heartbeat!

APS NORTHERN BEACHES JUNE VISIT

On Wednesday June 21 members of APS Northern Beaches are invited to visit the award winning native garden of Harry Loots in Cremorne.

Harry is a long-time member of the society and Treasurer of APS NSW. Bushwalking since his teens fostered his interest in growing Australian plants.

'In March Harry took a load of plants down to the APS NSW event at Bundeena and made \$140 for our group. He propagated and potted up the stock at home over a number of months, with Flannel Flowers and *Persoonia Linearis* the best sellers. Harry's next donation of stock was at the AGM.' L. Monson.

You can learn all about his successful propagation methods when you visit his inspiring garden.



Flannel flowers. Pic Harry Loots

Full details will be emailed by Anne Gray and it is essential that everyone registers for this event with her at 0466 309 181 or annepsgray@optushome.com.au.

APS NORTHERN BEACHES CALENDAR NOTES

Thursday July 6 APS Northern Beaches meeting
Presentation 'A Beginners Guide to Native Orchids' Wendy Grimm.

Thursday August 3 APS Northern Beaches meeting
Presentation 'Plants for gardens in the shade' Angela Michaelis.

Thursday September 7 APS Northern Beaches meeting
Presentation 'Beside the Seaside' Brian Roach.

Saturday September 9 Set-Up for SR Festival.
Sunday September 10 Stony Range Festival.

Saturday September 16 APSNSW GTG Corrimal.

Thursday October 5 APS Northern Beaches meeting
Show & Tell, Committee Meeting.

Thursday November APS Northern Beaches meeting
Presentation "Creating a frog-friendly garden". Gracie Liu



ANPSA BIENNIAL CONFERENCE 'GARDENS FOR LIFE' VICTORIA

30 September - 4 October 2024

Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre

The next ANPSA conference will be hosted by APS Victoria.

During the conference we will hear about all types of gardens and their impact on our life and the life of our world. We will visit spectacular gardens during the in-conference excursions including the world renowned Australian Garden at Cranbourne. Pre and post conference tours to Gippsland, the South West and the Grampians will be offered.

If you are interested in the conference, please go to the website (apsvic.org.au) and register your interest.

TOURS

The tours will visit some of Victoria's best scenic areas and spectacular displays of wildflowers. We are offering each tour pre and post conference. Conference attendees will have the opportunity to choose up to two out of the three tours. Each tour will visit areas of wildflowers in natural bushland, public and private gardens.



Australian Botanic Garden Cranbourne.

This is an opportunity of a lifetime as some of the gardens are only available through these tours. Each tour will be accompanied by experts. The pre conference tours are from Monday 23 September to Saturday 28 September 2024 and post conference from Saturday 5 October to Thursday 10 October 2024. Each tour covers 6 days.



Desert Garden - Australian Botanic Garden Cranbourne.